



BURLINGTON  
PARKS  
RECREATION  
WATERFRONT

## **Parks & Recreation and Harbor Commission Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**February 2, 2016**

**Commission Present:** Bossange, Kaplan and Hurley

**Staff Present:** Bridges, Cahill and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:34 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

A Motion was made by Bossange to approve the agenda, second by Hurley, motion carried.

#### **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Approval of Minutes of January 5, 2016 Meeting

\*waive the reading, approve the minutes and place them on file

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Hurley, second by Bossange, motion carried.

#### **Staffing Update**

Due to the light turnout of Commissioner's present Bridges did not have the new staff attend the meeting for introductions. He will introduce at the March Meeting. Two new hires, Candice Holbrook, Recreation Program Manager, (who will be presenting to the Commission with Diana Wood, Marketing & Outreach Manager), Devin Jones, Parks Facility Representative at Leddy Arena and Derrick Eckhard, Arborist Technician, who will attend the March Commission meeting. All are a great addition to the department.

Cahill added that the plantings at Dewey Park were done by Eckhard when he was a seasonal.

Bossange asked about vision hiring versus immediate needs hiring and Bridges stated that he felt really good about the people hired and the buy in within the department and how he had been able to mix up in State with out of State employees as well as very seasoned employees. Feels equal respectful process. Stated it was a mix of new positions as well as re-evaluated positions. The department is always evolving within the needs and skill-sets within the department.

#### **Public Forum (Time Certain 6:12PM, 3 min. per person time limit)**

Public forum opened at 6:00 p.m. by Kaplan.

Rick Sharp stated his business; Burlington Segways is doing very well and had doubled in business, currently leasing Segways to other organizations, will provide several to others during the summer and could not keep up with the demand. He passed out a copy of a petition to get Mr. Pecor of Lake Champlain Ferry to move the railroad tracks to the other side of the bike path. Feels it may be time to take the property by eminent domain.

Public forum closed at 6:20 p.m.



### **Burlington Segways, Electric Bicycles**

Kaplan stated that she did not understand what the action was that was being requested. Bridges stated that staff is waiting for a legal opinion to allow e-bikes and then will contribute staff recommendation as well. Stated that since missing two Commissioners he was not recommending any action tonight but it was the decision of the Commission.

Kaplan stated that due to the fact that two Commissioners are not present she proposed to postpone or move to a meeting with the full Commission. Bridges stated it would be good to get a response from the Commission present. There is no rule that currently deters from having the ebikes on the bike path and would most likely recommend a pilot after hearing from the attorney.

Kaplan questioned the deterrence in the future for allowing and the hesitance at the time Segways were discussed was to not have the bike path be overwhelmed with too much going on and would like to know what the scope of the business would look like so that it could work for all users.

Bridges said could propose an ordinance change and define with the approved path to solidify on the books and acknowledge that the path is wider and memorialize some of the current uses and the parameters and policies/contracts.

Bossange gave the definition of a segway and explained that they were approved by the commission to be used on the bike path, he explained that they looked at the definition of a bike and asked for clarification from Sharp. Explained the importance of not having any motorized vehicles on the path and would like to be able to have definitions that are up to date. Sharp agreed, what he is proposing looks like a bicycle and is exactly the same and you would not see the motor in any way, it would have peddles and be more of an assisted bicycle. You do not have to have the assist or if you want it you can use the switch and turn on the bike. Federal rules say now 750 watt and they are talking 500 watt max.

Bossange suggested talking about the max speed and Sharp would prefer 20 miles per hour but would accept a lesser speed. Sharp also noted that once you brake the motor goes off. Sharp said some developments happened this last year, came up with cargo bikes and doing very well and favorable and getting people out. In California you can ride any bike unanimously electric or otherwise effective this year, setting the precedence for the country.

Kaplan thanked for the presentation and perseverance but for the process has to take it slow and do in this way. Was in LA, California yesterday and noticed an e-bike and felt they were fine and thanked for educating the Commission, would not like to see too many e-bikes on the path and felt been very good stewards thus far which Sharp confirmed and agreed with.

Bridges said he felt a new memo should be sent to the Ordinance Committee to address this issue and Bossange offered to give his research information from the previous time this was addressed. Kaplan suggested making sure to keep an eye on the commercial activity on the path, as well as what will the proposal look like and would like to make sure all logistics are worked out.

Bossange said the consensus is to continue to move forward on the request and work on the legal ramifications.



### **WVDP Request for Conservation Legacy Funding**

Cahill stated that he had presented the Commission with an application for funding and not an uncommon use of funds, the property has been used for the public good, abuts Derway Island and is located in the part of the marina that is just inland of Charlies, about 300 yards before the Colchester bridge on the right side. Cahill said depending on what happens over time it could become conservation lands.

Bossange asked about what the legal and environmental costs were and Cahill said that the land is gifted but this money would cover the cost of legal fees and it has a septic tank on the site that would need to be remediated. The money would cover those costs. Cahill stated the Conservation Board had already given its approval.

Motion by Hurley to approve the request for \$3600 from the Conservation Board to fund to this project, second by Bossange. Motion carried.

### **Director's Items**

Bridges stated that some research was done on a couple of questions from the last meeting, parking at Perkins Pier is prohibited and only for overnight boaters parking. It has been a bad year for winter recreation and have gotten some complaints from the public on ice freezing and can only do what can with the weather. Doing Wintervale event to include dog sledding hopefully, next few meetings will be giving updates from other divisions and asked Commission to start thinking about the future and what needs to be accomplished and concluded with a reminder that there is an item on the City ballot to expand the Commission from 5 to 7 members.

Putzier explained at the previous Commission meeting a question was asked if any resident gardeners are being turned away and how many resident/non-resident gardeners exist in the Burlington Garden program. Cahill stated that it was very hard to gauge but that typically if a specific site is full applicants can go to another site or be contacted later, currently do not keep track of that. Also 40 gardeners of the 350 last year were non-residents and of that 12 were gardening at the Wheelock site which is located in South Burlington which leaves 28 non-residents many of whom are from neighboring communities to Burlington and consist of New Americans wanting to be in a community with other members of their cultural community. It was suggested to keep track of gardeners that are turned away and have an updated report on the May Commission meeting.

Cahill said the best model to share food is among the individual garden sites to have a method of letting people know what is available to take and also share with the Foodshelf and inquire what the specific needs of the Foodshelf are.

### **Commissioner's Items**

Kaplan asked Putzier to let her know what Commissioners terms are due this year and would also like to have a discussion around recruitment in the future.

Bossange felt it would be good to get a better variety, diversity and balance on the Commission.

Hurley said when she was recruited to be on the Commission she was approached by the City Council and most people don't know the process to become a Commissioner and feels a need to have a process.



Bossange gave an update on the letter that was sent to the City Council and stated that it upset many of the Councilors and had several responses to the failure of the ordinance and has since met with some. School group very upset and will be on a talk show with Kurt Wright and Dave Hartnett tomorrow and been meeting with some Councilors after the vote, Sharon Bushor and Max Tracy sent emails. Trying to get a date with Parks Arts and Culture Committee regarding the survey information and have gotten no information on the actual survey. Free Press called Kaplan and Bossange and they both spoke to the reporter regarding the no smoking in the parks proposal. Bossange concluded by stating he received a lot of support for the proposal.

Kaplan stated that it was perfectly acceptable to respond in the way in which the Commission did and stands by being treated rude and publicly thanked Bossange for all his work.

Kaplan met with Salina regarding the smoking ban then spoke about needle drop boxes and would like to put on a future meeting.

Hurley asked what the status is with the North Beach vendor and was told by Bridges that Amir did win the proposal to vend at North Beach again and feels that it would not impact patrons in any way and he would support the sale of alcohol on the deck area.

Kaplan asked if anything is coming up with food trucks for the summer and Bridges said a rotating food truck currently that operates at Leddy and would be doing that in the summer and also stated that the New North End Councilors had requested an event in that area as well.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. by Bossange, second by Hurley, motion carried.